Amendments to the Claims

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A method of screening for glucocorticoid analogs that stimulate bone development, comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting osteoblast and osteocyte cells with either a glucocorticoid or a test compound; and

(b) comparing the number of said osteoblast and osteocyte cells undergoing apoptosis following treatment with said glucocorticoid to the number of said osteoblast and osteocyte cells undergoing apoptosis following treatment with ~~and~~ said test compound,

wherein a lower number of apoptotic cells following treatment with said test compound than with said glucocorticoid is indicative of a compound that stimulates bone development.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein determination of said apoptosis is carried out using a technique ~~slected~~ selected from the group consisting of TUNEL, DNA fragmentation analysis, and immunohistochemical analysis.

16. (Currently amended) A method of screening for compounds that increase bone mineral density, comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting osteoblast and osteocyte cells with either a glucocorticoid or a test compound; and

(b) comparing the number of said osteoblast and osteocyte cells undergoing apoptosis following treatment with said glucocorticoid to the number of said osteoblast and osteocyte cells undergoing apoptosis following treatment with ~~and~~ said test compound,

wherein a lower number of apoptotic cells following treatment with said test compound than with said glucocorticoid is indicative of a compound that increases bone mineral density ~~stimulates bone development~~.

17. (Canceled.)

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein determination of said apoptosis is carried out using a technique selected from the group consisting of TUNEL, DNA fragmentation analysis, and immunohistochemical analysis.

19. (New) The method of claim 13 wherein the contacting of step (a) is in vitro in cell culture.

20. (New) The method of claim 13 wherein the contacting of step (a) is in vivo.

21. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein the contacting of step (a) is in vivo in a murine animal model.

22. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the contacting of step (a) is in vitro in cell culture.

23. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the contacting of step (a) is in vivo.

24. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein the contacting of step (a) is in vivo in a murine animal model.